

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /088 W
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R 091220Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 386
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA
USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3965

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, NI

SUBJECT: ZANU REPRESENTATIVE URGES UN ROLE IN ZIMBABWE

REF: (A) LAGOS 2829 (B) DAR ES SALAAM 1465 (BOTH NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GOSPEL NDLOVU, CLAIMING TO BE ZANU'S REPRESENTATIVE
IN NIGERIA,ICALLED ON AMBASSADOR APRIL 7 TO ASK FOR FINANCIAW
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ASSISTANCE AND TO PROPOSE THAT A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE,
ARMED AND FINANCED BY THE U.S., BE SENT TO ZIMBABWE TO SERVE
AS A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND TO ORGANIZE
ELECTIONS. HE ASSERTED THAT THE FMG IS CONSIDERING FINANCING
SITHOLE'S CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE BUT OBJECTS TO MALAWI AS THE
SITE. NDLOVU WAS NOT VERY IMPRESSIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. GOSPEL SDOMO NDLOVU, WHO CLAIMED TO BE IN NIGERIA AS A GUEST OF THE FMG TO ESTABLISH A ZANU OFFICE HERE, CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR APRIL 7. POLCOUNS ALSO PRESENT. NDLOVU DELIVERED A FORM LETTER TO EMBASSY ANNOUNCING HIS APPOINTMENT AS HEAD OF A "ZIMBABWE MISSION TO NIGERIA." LETTER ILLEGIBLY SIGNED BY AN "ACTING FIRST SECRETARY," PURPORTEDLY BY NAME HILLARY. LETTER CONTAINED A REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL AID TO MEET THE EXPECTED \$775,000 COST OF STAFFING, CONSTRUCTING AND EQUIPPING THE MISSION. EXPLAINING THAT THE USG HAS NO FUNDS FOR SUCH A PURPOSE, AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THE NIGERIANS MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSIST. NDLOVU SAID THE FMG HAD GIVEN AN INITIAL GRANT BUT THAT THE MONEY HAD RUN OUT AND HE WAS NOW AWAITING CABINET ACTION ON A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

2; THE FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED DURING THE SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH NDLOVU.

(A) RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE: ITAKING A STANCE AT ODDS WITH THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY HIS LEADER (REFTEL A), THE ZANU OFFICIAL SAID THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ARE USELESS; THERE IS "NO SENSE" TALKING WITH SMITH. ASKED A DIRECT QUESTION, HOWEVER, NDLOVU ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ZANU WOULD PARTICIPATE IN A RESUME GENEVA CONFERENCE. DURING THE DISCUSSION, HE CLAIMED THAT SITHOLE HAD ORIGINALLY AGREED TO GO TO GENEVA ONLY TO PREVENT HANDING EVERYTHING OVER TO NKOMO AND MUGABE.

(D) UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE FOR RHODESIA: NDLOVE PROPOSED THAT THE UN SEND A 7.S. FINANCED AND ARMED PEACEKEEPING FORCE TO
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ZIMBABWE. SMITH AND HIS CABINET, ACCORDING TO THE ZANU OFFICIAL, WOULD NOT RESIST SUCH A SHOW OF STRENGTH AND WOULD DEPART THE SCENE. THE PEACEKEEPING FORCE WOULD ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY FOR ONE OR TWO YEARS AND ORGANIZE NATIONAL ELECTIONS. THE ELECTIONS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE WON BY SITHOLE. NDLOVU STRESSED THAT THE TIME HAD COME FOR THE U.S. TO TAKE FORCEFUL ACTION IN SUPPORT OF AFRICA. AFRICANS ARE NOT COMMUNISTS, HE SAID, BUT IF THE CURRENT SITUATION EXPLODES IN A BLOOD BATH, THE OUTCOME CANNOT BE PREDICTED AND WESTERN INTERESTS MIGHT SUFFER.

THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. FAVORS A PEACEFUL, RAPID AND NEGOTIATED TRANSITION TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE IN ZIMBABWE. OUR POLICY IS CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH AND SUPPORTIVE OF THE UK WHICH CONTINUES TO HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TERRITORY. THE U.S. FULLY SUPPORTS FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN'S CURRENT MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA AND IS AWAITING ITS OUTCOME. AMBASSADOR ASKED IF NDLOVU HAD DISCUSSED HIS PROPOSAL WITH THE BRITISH OR SOVIETS, BOTH OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND WOULD CONSIDER HIS PROPOSAL IN THAT FORUM. NDLOVU SAID

HE PLANNED TO MEET WITH THE BRITISH.

(C) ZANU CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE: NDLOVU CONFIRMED THAT SITHOLE'S PLANS TO HOLD A CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE (REFTEL A) WERE PROCEEDING. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE MEETING IS THE ELECTION OF A NEW ZANU CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HE WAS VAGUE ABOUT WHO EXACTLY WOULD PARTICIPATE. NDLOVU SAID THE FMG IS CONSIDERING FINANCING THE CONFERENCE BUT NOT IF MALAWI REMAINS THE SITE FOR THE MEETING. FMG ITSELF WOULD NOT PLAY HOST TO THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE NIGERIA HAD GIVEN IN TO KAUNDA'S INTENSIVE LOBBYING LAST FEBRUARY ON BEHALF OF NKOMO AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF). IT WOULD THEREFORE BE EMBARRASSING IF THEY NOW WERE TO HOST A ZANU MEETING EVEN THOUGH FMG NO LONGER SUPPORTS EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION OF THE PF. NDLOVU SAID HE PLANNED TO TRAVEL TO DAR ES SALAAM NEXT WEEK TO REPORT THE FMG ATTITUDE PROVIDED HE COULD OBTAIN FUNDS.

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(WE NOTE FROM REFTEL B THAT PF LEADERS ARE PLANNING TO MEET IN DAR ES SALAAM NEXT WEEK BUT DO NOT KNOW WHETHER SITHOLE WILL BE IN THE VICINITY).

3. COMMENT: NDLOVU'S WAS AN UNIMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE. HE WAS DISORGANIZED AND BADLY PREPARED. WHETHER HIS PROPOSAL FOR A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE HAS SITHOLE'S APPROVAL IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR. HIS ASSERTION THAT THE FMG MIGHT FINANCE THE COSTS OF THE PROPOSED ZANU CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE WILL REQUIRE CONFIRMATION.
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